

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 002059

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT  
FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [CASC](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: ONE PALESTINIAN KILLED IN GAZA STRIP;  
35 MORTARS/ROCKETS FIRED AT ISRAELI TARGETS: MAY 20, 2005  
(1600 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint Embassy/ConGen cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: In the Gaza Strip, IDF soldiers shot and killed one Palestinian militant overnight May 19-20 and wounded another during an early morning attack on the Kfar Darom settlement with anti-tank rockets and mortar fire. No Israelis were reported injured. The IDF and UNRWA reported that Palestinian militants also fired some 35 mortars and rockets at Israeli settler and IDF targets May 19-20. At least one Qassam rocket was fired into Israel landing near the Israeli town of Sderot. No Israeli injuries were reported in any of these attacks. In the West Bank, the IDF arrested five Palestinians during an early morning incursion on May 20 into Nablus. The IDF confirmed on May 20 that settler extremists stole ammunition and other equipment from an IDF outpost in the Yizhar settlement. End summary.

-----  
West Bank  
-----

2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: Nil.

-- Injury: Israeli settlers from the Ramat Yashai settlement in Hebron on May 19 assaulted and injured an elderly Palestinian woman. The woman was treated at a local hospital with moderate injuries.

3. (SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Incursion/Arrests: The IDF on the morning of May 20 entered Nablus and arrested five Palestinians, three from the Askar refugee camp and two from the Balatah refugee camp. The IDF withdrew its forces from the city that same morning.

-- Demonstration: Palestinians in Nablus planned to hold a demonstration May 20, following noontime prayers, to protest the reported desecration of the Koran in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

-- Ammunition/equipment stolen: IDF officials confirmed to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz on May 20 that ammunition and night-vision equipment had disappeared from the IDF post at the Yizhar settlement on several occasions. The IDF suspected that settler extremists took the ammunition and other equipment in an attempt to carry out future attacks against Palestinians. The IDF Central Command removed the IDF outpost from the settlement several months ago.

-- Border Police sentenced: According to Israeli media reports, the Jerusalem district court on May 19 sentenced two Israeli Border policemen for their participation in the beating and physical abuse of two Palestinians at a Border Police post in Abu Dis last year. One of the two policemen received a sentence of eight months in prison, while the other was ordered to four months of community service. Two other Border Police were previously sentenced, while a fifth is currently awaiting sentencing.

4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Fatah candidates on May 19 won at least 14 out of the 15 contested seats in municipal elections held in Al-Ram, north of Jerusalem. Hamas did not win any seats.

-- PLO Negotiations Affairs head Sa'eb Erekat on May 19 held talks with PM Sharon's chief of staff Dov Weissglas. According to Israeli media reports, Erekat and Weissglas agreed "in principle" to a June meeting between PM Sharon and PA President Mahmud Abbas.

----  
Gaza  
----

5. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death/Injury: UNRWA reported that IDF soldiers shot and killed one militant overnight May 19-20 and wounded another when a group of three attacked Kfar Darom settlement with anti-tank rockets and mortar fire. No Israelis were reported injured; the third militant escaped. According to UNRWA and the IDF, the attack was launched from an unused UNRWA school on the outskirts of the settlement. The school was heavily damaged and the surrounding wall demolished by IDF responsive tank fire (see "Mortars/Rockets").

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF and UNRWA reported that Palestinian militants fired some 35 mortars and rockets at Israeli settler and IDF targets in the Gaza Strip May 19-20. At least one Qassam rocket was fired into Israel, landing near the Israeli town of Sderot. Palestinian militants fired at least three anti-tank rockets at IDF outposts near Rafah overnight May 19-20 according to the IDF. No Israeli injuries were reported in any of these attacks.

-- Shootings: UNRWA and Israeli media reported numerous instances of exchanges of fire as IDF soldiers responded to mortar and shooting attacks overnight May 19-20.

-- Explosions: The IDF reported that IDF sappers found and safely disposed of one IED north of Nahal Oz Crossing May 19, and another near an IDF outpost southwest of Khan Yunis the same day.

#### 16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open May 20, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction. Abu Khouli checkpoint closed at midday, according to local sources.

-- Erez Crossing was closed May 20.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed May 20.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers May 20, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was closed May 20, after two mortar rounds fell nearby.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures May 20.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed May 20. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30.

#### 17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Media and Palestinian sources reported that a Palestinian Appellate court invalidated municipal election results in Bayt Lahiya and al-Bureij May 19, in response to suits brought by Fatah alleging election fraud. The court ruled that all results from all polling stations that used their basis and four regular polling stations in al-Bureij should be annulled. Results from two civil registry stations and three regular stations were annulled in Bayt Lahiya. Election results in al-Mughragha were reportedly upheld after a separate appeal against the results there was found to be without basis by the court.

Connelly